

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island

School Committee Meeting

November 9, 2004

Open Session

Mr. Barilla, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. All members were present: Antone Gouveia, Mildred Morris, Helio Melo, Edna Snow and Peter Barilla. Mr. Vinhateiro, Superintendent and Mr. Robert Silva, Esq. were also in attendance. A motion was made by Mr. Melo to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel & (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mr. Gouveia.

Public Session reconvened at 7:35 PM. A motion was made by Mrs. Snow, seconded by Mr. Melo to return to open session. Vote 5-0. A motion was made by Mrs. Snow to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Melo. Vote 5-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence were observed.

Record of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Mr. Melo, seconded by Mrs. Snow to approve the minutes of the October 12, 19, 25 and 29, 2004 meetings, seconded by Mrs. Snow. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Melo introduced the new School Committee members who were invited to be present on the dais: Mrs. Eileen Lovett, Mr. David Medeiros and Mr. Robert Faria.

Hearings - None

Reading of Communications - None

Report of Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Vinhateiro requested that Dr. James Hilton, Director of Budget and Finance present the FY 2003-2004 Budget Update/Monthly Financial Statement. He explained this report is a wrap up of last year; the \$1.3 million deficit has been consistent. Mrs. Snow asked about the proceeds from the sale of the Thompson building. Mr. Vinhateiro explained that the deficit was projected to be \$1.3 million for 2003-04 and the City Council agreed to allocate 1% set-aside from the meals tax, which will come to the School Department for deficit reduction toward this year's deficit and Thompson School was declared a surplus with any revenue allocated toward the deficit. Depending on when the sale is finalized and depending on how the

auditors look at it, those funds will offset the deficit even further. Therefore, the possibility exists that the deficit may be completely wiped out; there many uncertainties (if the auditors will assign all \$700,000 from the sale of Thompson and if the meals tax comes in at the expected level). Mr. Gouveia wanted in the record that the City Council has set aside 80% of meals tax for the deficit reduction on the school side. We have budgeted on their estimate of \$500,000; the first four months they underestimated what the meals tax would bring in. We could be receiving more than the magic number of \$500,000. Dr. Hilton assured Mr. Barilla that all bills are included in the report and all outstanding debts are anticipated in this report.

Mr. Gouveia asked for a report estimating the current Accounts Payable balance for the School Department Dr. Hilton estimated it to be about \$2 million right now and this is dependent on the cash flow of the city. Mr. Vinhateiro related that he is meeting with the City Manager and this should be cleared up by December.

Awarding of Bids – None

Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Vinhateiro requested that the Acting Human Resource Director, Mrs. Zambarano, present his recommendations for the following personnel items:

The appointment of Mr. Harry Mutter to the position of the Director of Buildings and Grounds. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris, seconded by Mr. Melo, Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye.

Appointments

**Courtney Langelo Speech-Language Pathologist, Special Ed
(retirement of Camille Manchester, June 2004)**

Margarida Saunders Safety Patrol Advisor, Oldham School

Kevin O'Grady Softball Coach, RMS

Motion: Melo/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0.

RESIGNATIONS

Richard Hoppman Asst. Coach, Girls' Outdoor Track, SHS

**Dominic DiMasi Educational Specialist, Watters
Effective October 29, 2004**

**John Botelho Maintenance/Electrician
Effective November 5, 2004**

Motion: Snow/Second: Melo. Vote 5-0.

RETIREMENTS

Catherine Nelson Allen (18 y) English Teacher, SHS

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

Catherine Bramley (33 y) Grade 3 Teacher, Waddington School

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

Kathleen Coyne (31 y) Grade 1 Teacher, Waddington School

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

Jo-Ann Donnelly (34 y) Grade 4 Teacher, Oldham School

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

Mary-Jane Estrella (25 y) Grade 2 Teacher, Silver Spring

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

Barbara Faiola (20 y) Math Teacher/Math Coordinator, RMS

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

Susan Jordan (30 y) Grade 1 Teacher, Hennessey School

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

Jane Loffredio (35 y) Family & Consumer Science Teacher, RMS

Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year

**Kathleen Lord (33 y) Math Teacher and Department Chair, SHS
Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year**

**Henry Marques (30 y) Math Teacher, SHS
Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year**

**Paula Paiva (34 y) Special Ed Teacher, Self-Contained, RMS
Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year**

**Kenneth Reall (33 y) Health Teacher, SHS
Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year**

**Joy Starnino (34 y) Librarian, SHS
Conclusion of 2004-2005 School Year**

**Motion: Snow with regret/Second: Morris. Mrs. Snow thanked all the
retiring teachers for 500
combined years of service. The Committee extended congratulations
and happy retirement to all.**

RECALL

**Hillary Lyons Educational Specialist
(Resignation of Dominic DiMasi)**

Motion: Morris/Second: Snow. Vote 5-0.

FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE (Maternity)

Lisa Rose Grade 1 Teacher, Orlo Ave. School

November 4, 2004

Andrea Sprout Grade 2 Teacher, Waddington School

Approximately February 28, 2005

Carla Midgley Special Ed Teacher, Self-Contained, Oldham

Approximately January 27, 2005

Motion: Snow/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0.

PARENTAL LEAVE

Maura Gorham Educational Specialist, Meadowcrest School

2004-2005 School Year (Year 2)

Motion: Snow/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0.

Facilities Update - Mr. Vinhateiro advised that new doors would be installed at Riverside during the first week of December. He also presented the Committee with a Facilities Report prepared by Mr. Mutter, which detailed lighting issues in school sites, which need to be addressed. The School Committee at the last meeting requested this information.

Home School Requests - Dr. Jacqueline Forbes recommended approval of one request for home schooling. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve, seconded by Mr. Melo. Vote 5-0.

Prospective Grants/Consultants – None

Field Trip Requests – Mr. Vinhateiro recommended approval of the following requests:

Annual Ski Trip - Martin Middle School – Two trips to Mt. Sunapee in NH – Temporary dates January 29, 2005 and March 5, 2005 and the Annual Eighth Grade Adventure Bound Class Trip, Mt. Snow, Vermont on June 15 & 16, 2005. Motion by Mrs. Snow to approve, seconded by Mrs. Morris. Vote 5-0.

A letter from Mr. Edward Daft, East Providence High School Principal, supporting a request from the Choral Director for a trip to Italy during the February 2005 vacation. Mr. Barilla asked for assurance that this trip has met all requirements of the School Committee regarding insurance coverage. A motion was made by Mrs. Morris to approve, seconded by Mrs. Snow for discussion. Mrs. Morris asked why a parent was not part of the chaperones. Mr. MacNamara explained that no parents volunteered. Mrs. Morris thinks the nurse should go on the trip. Vote 5-0.

Report of Sub-Committees – Mrs. Morris tabled the Cafeteria

Committee report until December.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Mr. Melo requested discussion of the Martin Middle School Library; he received a call from the PTA President regarding the loss of books last year due to damage to the library during the construction/roof project. The PTA wants to start fundraising projects; parents or members of the community might donate money toward books or magazine subscriptions.

Mr. Vinhateiro related that he has also been in touch with Mrs. Roll and the Principal of Martin Middle School and he commended the PTA, staff, and administrators at Martin for seeing a problem and working for a solution. Mr. Vinhateiro asked Mr. DeVall to address the Committee. Mr. DeVall said they raised over \$9000 during the last calendar year through fundraisers, parent donations and a walk for books. Mr. DeVall thanked the School Committee for the improvements to the building; the new gym, etc. and now there is a need to improve the library. Mr. Vinhateiro explained that any insurance money went right back into the school toward new carpeting, etc. and this year, there is money allocated in the budget for the library.

Curriculum/Special Education/ESL (Mr. Gouveia) – Mr. Gouveia asked

to place this item on the agenda because of concerns he had related to last year's test scores and the work needed to help special needs and ESL students. He explained that he was not looking for specifics at this meeting, but would like to put this item on a future agenda for discussion. Mr. Vinhateiro related that during the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 academic years, it has been the focus of the school department to provide increasing support to special needs teachers and staff, so students will perform better in the yearly standardized tests and he provided a sampling of the support and services provided to teachers and support staff related to materials and professional development opportunities. Mr. Gouveia asked that Mr. Vinhateiro and Dr. Forbes provide an opinion/evaluation of the Chicago Math series. Mrs. Morris related information she heard that the state would be looking into a math curriculum statewide.

Mr. Vinhateiro reported that last year, following a review of the student population and program delivery procedures in our English as a Second Language Program, staffing was reduced and some students were reassigned in order that we could more effectively deliver services to our ESL students. He provided an up to date student census and staff allotment by school. The goal of ESL is to exit students from the program; the results last spring were the best we have ever seen. Mr. Gouveia would like to hold a meeting some time in January dedicated to specific updates on the special education program and parents should be invited to the meeting. Mr. Gouveia would like this to be a function of the School Committee; he

wants to discuss everything about the kids in the coming year, as the last years have been just about money.

Payment of Bills

Local Operating Bill List

Warrant #000523 11/1/04 \$ 2,020,637.48

Motion: Snow/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0

Federal Bill List

Warrant #000520 10/20/04 \$ 272,559.91

Motion: Melo/Second: Morris. Vote 5-0.

Mrs. Morris asked Mr. Vinhateiro about making contact with the City Manager. Mr. Vinhateiro reported that relations between the City and School Department are very good and he and Mr. Fazioli have been collaborating on ways to save money by working together. There is a good possibility of sharing the technology position with the City and this idea will be taken up with the new School Committee. Mr. Vinhateiro thinks it is a good idea, the potential is there and it would be a good opportunity. He also had discussions with Mr. Fazioli regarding upcoming capital projects on the table; the specifications for a new roof at Orlo will be developed and put out to bid.

Question and Answer Period

Bill Barker, Don Avenue, the outgoing chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee related that his group will be meeting six times this school year and the next meeting is 1/16/04 at Martin Middle School Library. He asked that a School Committee member become involved in this as a point person.

Steve Furtado 17 Mason Street, on behalf of the State PTA Council, thanked Mrs. Snow, Mr. Melo and Mr. Barilla for their service on the School Committee.

Mr. Medeiros thanked the School Committee and the Superintendent for inviting him.

Mrs. Snow reflected on her career as an educator; she never regretted serving on the School Committee and her desire was to always try to provide a good education for kids.

Mr. Melo thanked everyone in the School department; students, faculty, administrative staff, who have been wonderful to him, colleagues present and past; it has been a great six years even with some rough roads. He is grateful to have been elected to the House of Representatives, District 64 and he is looking forward to continue work with East Providence. He thanked his wife and children.

Mr. Barilla reflected on his school committee term and read a prepared statement. He thanked everyone for their cooperation.

Mr. Robert Silva, Esq. related that the School Committee voted on collective bargaining agreements (EPESA-Secretaries, Local 2969-AFSCME, custodians and EPASP (Principals) in Executive Session and a public vote is also required. Mr. Vinhateiro explained that various bargaining units took 0% raise or a reduced raise by ratifying agreements mentioned in the past in a generous give back of increase due on November 1, 2004. Those employees have agreed to forego their raises in order to balance the budget, allowing textbooks and programs for students to still operate, even with the budget cut from the City. This public vote will formalize the agreements with those bargaining units. Motion by Mrs. Snow, seconded by Mr. Gouveia and Mrs. Morris. This included the modification and extension of contracts with the principals, secretaries, teacher assistants and Local 2969 (custodians) as recommended by the Superintendent in a memorandum to the School Committee. Every collective bargaining unit contract is covered under this agreement. Roll call vote: Mr. Gouveia, aye; Mr. Melo, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye; Mrs. Snow, aye; Mr. Barilla, aye. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Barilla thanked all the bargaining units.

A motion was made by Mr. Melo to adjourn at 9:20 PM, seconded by Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Snow. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary

Antone M. Gouveia, Clerk of the Committee